

In re Application of:
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Page 2

PATENT
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64. (Amended) A non-invasive method for obtaining a skin sample for use in isolating or detecting a nucleic acid in a skin sample, the method comprising:

(a) applying at least one application of an adhesive to the skin and removing the adhesive from the skin in a manner such that the skin nucleic acid profile prior to application and after application is not affected and such that a sample comprising a nucleic acid adheres to the adhesive after its removal, or, scraping the skin with an instrument to remove a sample comprising a nucleic acid from the skin, thereby obtaining a skin sample comprising a nucleic acid; and

(b) isolating or detecting the nucleic acid from the skin sample of step (a).

104. (Amended) A non-invasive method for obtaining a skin sample for use in isolating or detecting nucleic acid encoding a cytokine in the skin sample, the method comprising:

applying at least one application of an adhesive surface to the skin and removing the adhesive surface from the skin such that a skin sample comprising nucleic acid in an amount sufficient for subsequent isolation or detection adheres to the adhesive surface after its removal and in a manner such that the skin nucleic acid profile prior to application and after application is not affected, thereby obtaining a skin sample for use in isolating or detecting a nucleic acid in a skin sample.

123. (Amended) The method of claim 121, wherein the cytokine is interleukin-1 (IL-1), interleukin-2 (IL-2), interleukin-3 (IL-3), interleukin-4 (IL-4), interleukin-5 (IL-5), interleukin-6 (IL-6), interleukin-7 (IL-7), interleukin-8 (IL-8), interleukin-9 (IL-9), interleukin-10 (IL-10), interleukin-12 (IL-12), interleukin-13 (IL-13), interleukin-14 (IL-14), granulocyte macrophage colony stimulating factor (GM-CSF), or an interferon or any combination thereof.

124. (Amended) The method of claim 121, wherein the cytokine is an inflammatory mediator.